

*Written Testimony for the Public Safety and Security Committee  
March 1, 2016*

The Department of Social Services (DSS) offers the following written testimony in support of

**SB No 118 AN ACT CONCERNING THE COLLECTION OF DELINQUENT TAXES  
AND CHILD SUPPORT FROM LOTTERY WINNINGS**

This legislation would reduce the threshold amount from \$5,000 to \$600 to collect lottery winnings for child support and delinquent taxes.

The Department of Social Services is the lead state agency for child support. In SFY 2015, child support program collected nearly \$298.7 million in court ordered child support. Out of this total, \$222,994 were from lottery intercepts from child support obligors.

Currently, the Department is only able to intercept lottery winnings over \$5,000. The Department has a Memorandum of Understanding with the CT Lottery Corporation to support this requirement and create guidelines for the interception process.

When a child support obligor is identified by CT Lottery Corp., the following order of priority is followed:

- 1) deduct applicable federal and state taxes,
- 2) amounts due to CT Lottery Corporation by the prize winner who is/was a lottery agent,
- 3) amounts due for child support,
- 4) amounts due to DRS for delinquent taxes, and
- 5) any other lawful claim for offset, deduction or withholding.

Essentially, the Department intercepts any or all portion of the ticket winnings necessary to satisfy the past-due child support balance.

The Department believes reducing the threshold amount on winnings to \$600 will significantly expand intercept amounts to pay child support arrearages. Ultimately, this would mean more payments to help satisfy past-due child support balances for the custodial parents and children entitled to such payments.

For these reasons the Department supports this proposal.